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These subject-matters are not treated from the point of view of the "doctrinaire," but from an essentially practical one. It outlines the opinions of the principal authorities on each of these questions, and gives a sketch of the principal diplomatic treaties relating to them.

The method and contents of the book enable any one wishing to obtain information speedily on any question of international law, to find the same concisely stated in the work of Dr. Suarez without having to search for the opinions in different works on each subject with which international law is concerned, as we are now compelled to do.

But besides this, the work of the distinguished Venezuelan diplomat has another advantage. This has been brought to our attention by Mr. A. Merignac, Professor at the University of Toulouse, in a review of the book which appeared in the last number of the *Revue Générale de Droit International Public*,—that is, it makes known to European authors and publicists the Spanish and South American bibliography on international law.

We are convinced that the splendid work of Dr. Suarez will be well received by all persons who dedicate themselves to the subject of international law, and Dr. Suarez must be sincerely congratulated on his efforts, which have succeeded in enriching American literature and bibliography by the work that has just been published from his pen.

ALEJANDRO ALVAREZ.

The Freedom of the Seas. A dissertation by Grotius. Translated, with a revision of the Latin text, by Ralph Van Deman Magoffin. Edited, with an introductory note, by James Brown Scott. New York: Oxford University Press. 1916. pp. xv, 83.

The *Mare Liberum* appeared anonymously in 1608, and was Grotius' first published contribution to international law. A feature causing the little dissertation to deserve unusual attention at the present time is indicated by the translator's selection of a title just now in common use,—“The Freedom of the Seas.” It is true that there is no direct treatment of the topics now pressing; for Grotius had not occasion to discuss whether neutrals in time of war should continue in unrestricted use of the sea and whether even belligerent private and non-contraband property should be as safe on sea as on land. Yet there is presentation of the question necessarily underlying those topics, the question, that is to say, whether the sea is open to all in time of peace. On this ele-

mentary problem Grotius contends that *prima facie* the sea is open to all people whomsoever and for the purpose of commerce with all people whomsoever. As the headings of two of the chapters put the matter: "*Jure gentium quibusvis ad quosvis liberam esse navigationem*" and "*Jure gentium inter quosvis liberam esse mercaturam*." Those two chapters (I and VIII) contain passages capable of use to-day, and so does the preliminary address "*Ad principes populosque liberos orbis Christiani*." The other parts are of more temporary interest, as they deal with the details of a controversy between the Portuguese and the Dutch on Dutch rights of commerce with the East Indies. Yet even these more specialized passages are worthy of being examined as specimens of Grotius' method, especially as his more famous treatise *De Jure Belli ac Pacis* is so voluminous as to discourage even the few who care to read old books. The *Mare Liberum*, though short, gives adequate knowledge of the use which Grotius made of ethical reasoning and of quotations from the Bible, the Greek and Latin classics, and the literature of the Middle Ages.

Grotius' Latin is impressive, and no translation can take its place; but, like all modern Latinists, Grotius was compelled to use words seldom or never found in the classics, and hence the parallel English version is welcome.

The introduction by Dr. Scott gives the historical background for the dissertation, and explains that half a century ago the dissertation was discovered to be a revision of the then unpublished treatise *De Jure Prædæ*, and that, according to some experts, both this short dissertation and that larger treatise may have owed their existence to some employment of Grotius by the Dutch East India Company.

EUGENE WAMBAUGH.

The Law of Contraband of War. By H. Reason Pyke. Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 1915. pp. xl, 314.

It is seldom that a book which is timely—especially if it be a law book—is thoroughly and carefully prepared. Mr. Pyke's study of the law of contraband is an exception. Of its timeliness there can be no question. There is no other branch of international law which upon the outbreak of war becomes of such general interest to the commercial states of the world, whether belligerent or neutral, as does the law of contraband. The exercise by belligerents of rights over neutral property